

SOLANUS

Bulletin of the Sub-Committee on Slavonic and East
European Materials of the Standing Committee on
National and University Libraries (SCONUL).



Editor :

R. J. FULFORD

British Museum

No. 1.

November, 1966

S O L A N U S

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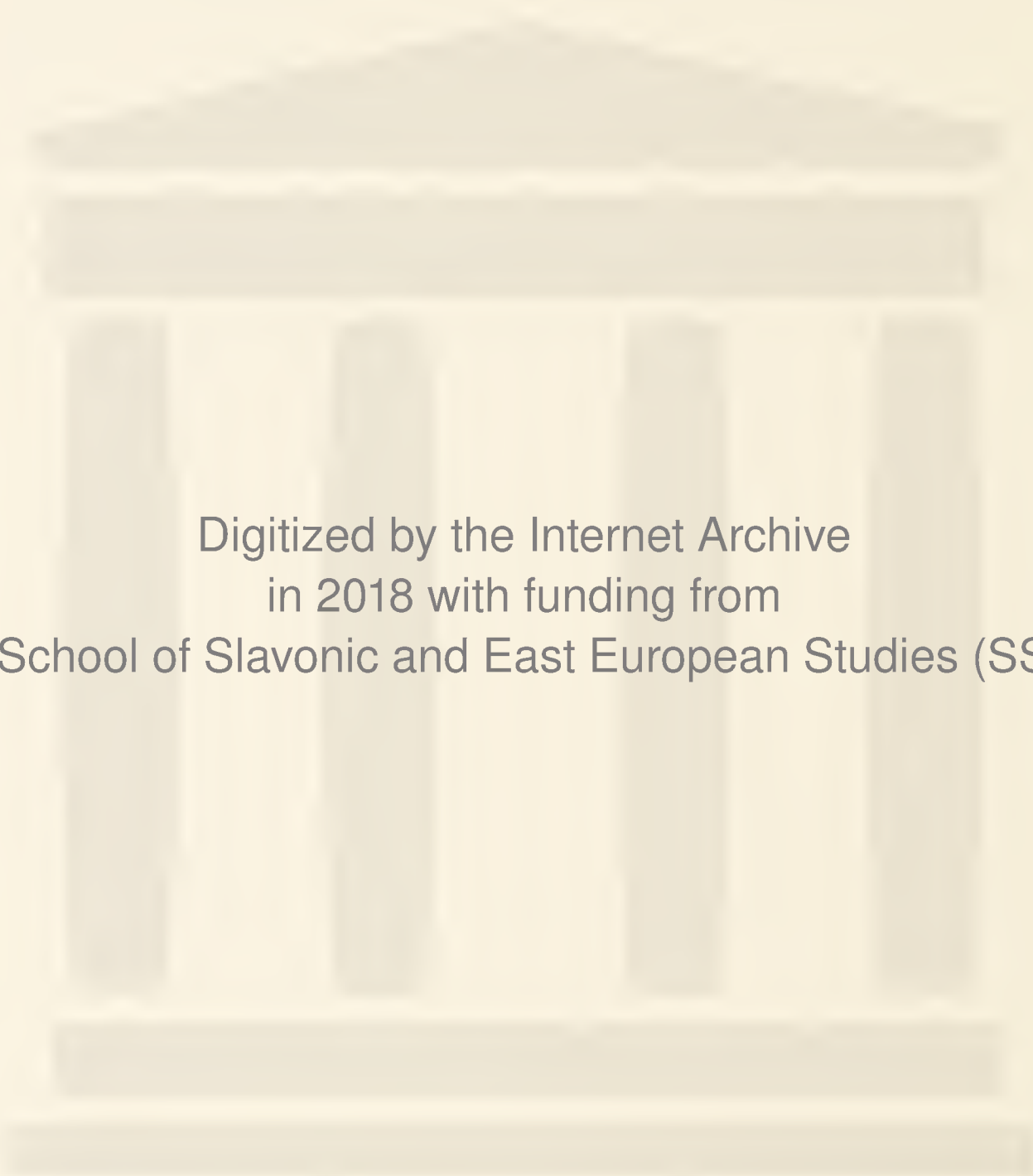
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EDITORIAL

The Subcommittee whose first newsletter you now have before you was formed in 1965, following two conferences on Slavonic and East European materials held at the National Central Library in November, 1964, and February, 1965, and a similar conference held at Birmingham in December, 1964. Its members are librarians, representing libraries with substantial Slavonic and East European holdings, and its aims concern all aspects of library facilities and bibliographical services in this particular field. It has so far discussed such questions as future support of the Slavonic Union Catalogue at the National Central Library, the problem of identifying gaps in the overall British holdings of Slavonic and East European materials, and the exchange of duplicates between libraries.

The present bulletin is intended to provide a medium for information and opinion on these matters.

We are sending this first issue to libraries, university staffs and individuals who are interested in the library, bibliographical and documentary aspects of Slavonic and East European studies. At the end of this issue you will find a form to send in if you would like to receive future issues.

The editor welcomes contributions and correspondence on relevant matters, and any suggestions from readers about the subjects they would like to see discussed in our pages in future.

A note on the title:

A well known journal in the field of Slavonic studies is called *Eos*, the Greek name for the East wind. For bibliographical convenience, and for easier identification, it was decided to use a similar kind of title here, a point that will no doubt be appreciated when our more descriptive, but decidedly unwieldy, subtitle is borne in mind. Hence we have chosen the Latin name for the East wind—SOLANUS.

The Editor regrets that it is impossible at the moment to add the required diacritics to C, S, and Z (Czech, Croatian, etc.) to represent the sounds "ch", "sh" and "zh".

THE POLISH LIBRARY IN LONDON

The Polish Library in London traces its descent in a direct line from two book collections initiated in 1941-2 by departments of the Polish Government in Exile:

- (1) the Library of the Ministry of Education;
- (2) a book collection begun under the auspices of the Polish National Culture Fund.

In 1943 the two book collections mentioned above were amalgamated to become the "Library of the Ministry of Religious Denominations and Public Education". Mrs. M. L. Danilewicz (until 1939 member of the staff of the National Library in Warsaw) was appointed Librarian, and also the Polish representative in the Books and Periodicals Commission attached to the Conference of Allied Ministers of Education—Professor Sir Ernest Barker of Cambridge University was Chairman of the Commission.

The Library was housed at Buckingham Palace Mansions, Buckingham Palace Road, London, S.W.1.

The functions of the Library comprised:

- (1) the acquisition of Polish publications published outside Poland since September 1st, 1939—to continue the work of the pre-war Bibliographical Institute at the National Library in Warsaw and secure equivalents of 'free copies';
- (2) the purchase, where possible, of old Polish books, Polonica and Conradiana;
- (3) the collection of books for university libraries in Poland;
- (4) the provision of a library service to the staff of the Ministry and to private persons (mainly scholars and teachers), both Polish and British.

During the years 1943-5 the main effort was concentrated on (3). In this task support was received from the Polish University Libraries Committee, which had been set up in 1942 by friends of Poland connected with the University of St. Andrews in Scotland (where units of the Polish forces were stationed). During the period of the intensified air raids in the summer of 1944, books purchased under the terms of reference of the Books and Periodicals Commission for the university libraries in Poland were evacuated to the Polish Book Depot in St. Andrews.

By June, 1945, the number of items acquired by the Library (including purchases destined for libraries in Poland) had reached 15,917.

On July 5th, 1945, as a result of the withdrawal of recognition from the Polish Government in London, the Library found itself in difficulties. One of the Polish Government's last acts, while still recognised by the British Government, was to transfer the ownership of the Library's collections to the Polish Research Centre. However, they remained physically housed at Buckingham Palace Mansions, where the Library continued to function without a break, and even expanded its activities. The British authorities, represented by an Interim Treasury Committee for Polish Questions, agreed to the continued existence of the Library, which now had to meet the need of many Poles in Great Britain for intensive English language study and preparation for earning a livelihood in a foreign country. These needs assumed a more systematic character following the creation of the Polish Resettlement Corps in 1947.

The collection of books for Poland continued until, as a result of conferences held in various Government departments, books to the number of 14,641, and a large collection of periodicals, were sent to various libraries in Poland during 1945-6. A further 4,669 volumes—the final instalment—were despatched in March, 1950. This depletion, however, was speedily made good by accessions from various sources which during 1945-7 amounted to 25,083 volumes. The number of users also increased steadily. At 31st March, 1947, they numbered 1,744, and volumes borrowed during the year ended at that date amounted to 24,000.

On 1st April, 1947, the Interim Treasury Committee for Polish Questions formally wound up its activities, and its educational responsibilities were transferred to a new body, the Committee for the Education of Poles in Great Britain, of which Sir George Gater was Chairman. The staff of the Library increased, and by the end of 1948 numbered eight in addition to Mrs. Danilewicz (then A.L.A.), who remained in charge. The lending library was arranged on the Dewey decimal system, with free access to shelves. Besides reference works, a large selection of Polish and English periodicals was made available in the Reading Room. The Library's bibliographical activities were systematically continued.

On 1st April, 1948, the Library, which had been functioning as "The Polish Library in London", was renamed the "Polish University College Library", in connection with a big expansion of the Polish University College, and placed under the authority of the Principal: Prof. E. G. McAlpine at that time, and after his sudden death, Sir Harold Cloughton.

It was resolved that the Library would serve primarily as the Library of the College and would cater for the needs of its lecturers and students. The collections, however, continued to be made available to the Polish community in Great Britain as a whole; a postal loans section was even set up to meet increasing requests from readers in the provinces. During the period 1948-1951, the number of readers rose to 5,318, and the number of books lent to 63,167.

In 1950 the Library began to issue quarterly lists of accessions entitled "Books in Polish" (from 1954 to date "Books in Polish or relating to Poland"). In addition, the compilation of a bibliography of books in Polish or relating to Poland published outside Poland since 1st September, 1939, was undertaken, and the first volume, covering the period 1939-51 and describing 5,625 works, was issued in 1953 (edited by J. Zabielska). A third long-term commitment of the Library was the preparation, by Mrs. Danilewicz from 1951 to 1964, of the section "Polish Studies" of "The Year's Work in Modern Language Studies", published by C.U.P. for the Modern Humanities Research Association.

In 1953 the British authorities decided to terminate the activities of the Polish University College, and the Library's existence was once again threatened; but it emerged triumphantly from this crisis, thanks to the helpful attitude of the British Ministry of Education, and to the efforts of the Polish community. The concern of the latter for the fate of the library found expression in a petition to the Minister of Education, Miss Florence Horsbrugh, by a delegation led by Count Edward Raczyński on 18th May, 1953. Signatures of 21,360 Poles were appended to the petition asking for continuation of the Polish University College Library activities. The Minister informed the delegation that her department would take a favourable attitude to the future of the Library, provided that the Polish community would guarantee to secure premises for it. This condition was fulfilled in the autumn of 1953, thanks to the assistance of the Polish University College Associa-

tion Ltd., which offered the Library free accommodation at 5, Princes Gardens, London, S.W.7. The Library was housed at that address until June, 1962, when it had to move again to a neighbouring house at 9, Princes Gardens. The exchange brought a substantial improvement in conditions of work—central heating, additional floor space for offices, etc.

In the autumn of 1953 the Library was officially placed under the care of the Polish Research Centre, which entrusted its administration to an autonomous Library Committee, including a representative of the Ministry of Education, and working under the chairmanship first of Mr. Frank Harrod, and now of Mr. R. H. Hill. The Library continued its activities from 1953 under its present name, "The Polish Library".

The Department of Education and Science (formerly Ministry of Education) makes an annual grant towards the upkeep of the Library through the Library Committee, and accommodation continues to be provided free of charge by the Polish Social and Cultural Association, which took over some activities from the former Polish University College Association Ltd. in 1966.

The Government grant has been reduced in the current financial year from about £10,000 to £7,000, and the work of the Polish Library has had to be drastically reorganised. It has been necessary, *inter alia*, to dispense with the services of four members of the staff.

According to recent official statements, the grant of £7,000 will cease altogether as from the 1st April, 1967. The future of the Polish Library is again threatened, and the Polish community, frightened by the prospect of its liquidation, has recently created the Polish Library Council in order to safeguard its future.

The Polish Community in Great Britain is making every effort to increase its share, and ultimately to undertake the responsibility for their vital cultural need. It is not, however, able to cover in full the cost of maintaining the services of the Library, and therefore it is now approaching the Department of Education and Science with a request for extension of the H.M. Government grant, especially as it serves, not only Poles, but also British libraries, institutions, and individual readers.

Since 1953 the Polish Library has concentrated on three tasks:

- (1) all-round expansion of the stock of books in Polish or relating to Poland ;

- (2) furnishing the reading room with periodicals and serials in Polish or relating to Poland, in all fields of knowledge, with emphasis on humanities ;
- (3) bibliographical work.

The Polish Library collections have reached 60,000 titles (about 70,000 volumes) of which 80% are in Polish. It has a special section consisting of a collection of books in Polish or relating to Poland published outside Poland (émigré publications and Polonica)—more than 10,000 titles. It is worth noting that many of them, although published in Great Britain, are not included in the “British National Bibliography”, which lists only selected and more easily available publications. On the other hand, they are not listed in the “Przewodnik Bibliograficzny”, published in Poland, either ; this lists only books and pamphlets printed in Poland.

There is a corresponding collection of periodicals and serials listed in two special catalogues, comprising (1) those published outside Poland since 1st September, 1939 (971 titles), and (2) those published in Poland since 1945 (about 1,000 titles). Both collections are kept up to date, and carefully supplemented.

There is also a small collection of old Polish books and Polonica, with the emphasis on Anglo-Polonica (about 2,300 volumes).

The Lending Library stock (about 18,000 titles) does not form part of the main collection, and is regularly revised and supplemented by new titles. It contains a high proportion of books on topical subjects, memoirs, literary texts and criticism, books on art, etc.

Close co-operation is maintained between the Polish Library and the National Central Library. The Library deals almost daily with requests for bibliographical information such as the location of particular books, bibliographical lists, translations of Polish works into English, etc. The Library is often asked to supply books and periodicals by various departments of H.M. Government. The Librarian is in permanent contact with majority of teachers of Polish subjects at universities outside Poland, in the U.S.A., Canada, Australia, Germany, Switzerland, etc. It receives also numerous requests for books and bibliographical information from Poland. In return it receives numerous books and periodicals on an exchange basis.

At present, gifts and exchanges account for 66% of the new acquisitions—2,000 volumes per annum, as against less than a thousand from purchases. As a rule, English books received as gifts (mainly of university standard) are exchanged with the Polish university libraries for current books of a scholarly character or of documentary value.

(Compiled by M. L. Danilewicz, on the basis of a memorandum prepared by Mr. Marcus Wheeler.)

DUPLICATES OF SLAVONIC AND EAST EUROPEAN MATERIAL IN THE BODLEIAN LIBRARY

The Bodleian Library has acquired over the last ten years a considerable number of duplicates of books and periodicals published in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe. For the most part they were not catalogued and, apart from being a wasting asset, were occupying an increasing amount of increasingly valuable space. It was the Library's practice to dispose of these duplicates only to other libraries and institutions in exchange, but very few British libraries were able to send lists of their duplicates and, indeed, few had anything comparable to offer.

In 1963, the Curators of the Library gave permission for the duplicates to be sold, which meant that they could be offered profitably to a far wider number of addresses. The provision was made, however, that they should be offered first to other libraries, and that only those which remained after being thus offered might then be sold to booksellers.

The first lists were sent out to a small number of British libraries in 1964. Of 59 Czechoslovak duplicates, 11 were sold ; of 51 Hungarian, 28 were sold ; of 110 Polish, 38 were sold ; of 298 Soviet, 164 were sold. The titles were accompanied by full series notes but without pages and price. A covering letter gave the pricing procedure and the exchange rates used.

During 1966 a concerted attempt is being made to dispose of the remaining 1,000-odd books, and more lists have been compiled,

including, for the first time, lists of Albanian, Bulgarian, Rumanian and Yugoslav books. There will also be a list of books for which no charge will be made. Any library applying for these lists will be sent a copy, while visits by librarians in person will always guarantee priority.

Periodicals will not for the time being be listed, but they will be shown to all enquirers and no charge will be made for them.

Towards the end of 1966 all the remaining duplicates will be offered to bookshops.

With the exception of 73 rarer books, which have been valued by Mr. J. S. G. Simmons, the books will be sold at half the published price, using the following rates of exchange:

Albania	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	leke	40
Bulgaria	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	leva	3.3
Czechoslovakia	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Kcs	40
Hungary	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	Ft.	60
Poland	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	zl.	80
Rumania	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	lei	40
Soviet Union	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	R.	2.4
Yugoslavia	.	.	.	.	.	.	.	din.	35

(By J. E. Wall)

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

British Museum

Recent interesting acquisitions of the British Museum include: Xerox reproductions of the periodicals "Russkoe slovo" and "Sovremennik", the original sets of which were lost in the bombing of 1940-41; a replacement set of "Archiv für die Geschichte Liv-, Est- und Curlands" (1843-85), also lost in the war; a first edition of Gogol's "Mirgorod"; numbers of "Chtenija v Imperatorskoj Istorii i Drevnostej Rossiiskikh", making the previously very imperfect set nearly complete; many volumes of the "Sitzungsberichte der Estnischen Gelehrten Gesellschaft" for 1872 onwards; a set of the periodical "Russkaja Shkola" for 1891-1916; a set of the newspaper "Ceskoslovensky denník", published successively in Penza, Omsk, Ekaterinburg and Irkutsk during 1918-19 by the Czechoslovak Army in Siberia; a set of the political journal

“ Slovan ” (1850-51), edited by Karel Havlíček ; a copy of Pasternak's “ Kogda razgulyaetsja ” with manuscript annotations by the author (the copy referred to in Pasternak's “ Sochinenija ”, Ann Arbor, vol.3, pp.249, 259).

A handlist of current Soviet Russian periodical in the field of social sciences and humanities taken by the British Museum will shortly be available. Copies may be obtained free of charge by writing to the editor of this bulletin.

(R. J. Fulford)

University of Glasgow

The Library of the Glasgow University has acquired the following periodicals on microfilm :

Sovetskoe gosudarstvo i pravo.	1930-41.
Ekonomicheskoe obozrenie.	1923-30.
Statisticheskoe obozrenie.	1927-30.

(A. P. Fletcher)

University of Cambridge

The Cambridge University Library has acquired the following Slavonic newspapers, periodicals, etc. in microform :

(A) *Microfilm*

- Bol'shevik. 1924-45.
- KPSS, Tsentral'nyj Komitet. Izvestija 8-18, 20-287. (1919-29).
- Leningradskaja Pravda. 1924-5.
- VLKSM. S"ezdy 1, 1925- 9, 1931.
- Vlast' sovetov. 1920-30.
- Bibliograficheskija izvestija ; zhurnal izd. Russkim Bibliograficheskim obshchestvom pri Imp. Mosk. Univ. God 1-15, 17.

(B) *Readex microprints*

- Russkaja istoricheskaja biblioteka. Vols. 1-39.
- Russkaja starina. 1870-1918.
- Russkij arkhiv. 1863-1917.
- Gosudarstvennaja Duma. Stenograficheskie otchety. 1906-17.
- Annaly ; Zhurnal vseobshchej istorii. Vol. 1-4.
- Gosudarstvennyj Sovet. Stenograficheskie otchety. 1906-17.
- Bjulleteni Gosplana. (subs.: Planovoe khozjajstvo). 1923-53.
- Knizhnaja letopis'. 1907-59.
- Zhurnal Ministerstva Narodnago Prosveshchenija. 1834-1917.
- Bor'ba klassov. 1931-6.

Istoricheskij zhurnal. 1937-45.
Istorik-marksist. 1926-41.
Pod znamenem marksizma. 1922-44.
Proletarskaja revoljutsija. 1921-40.
Tsentral'noe Statisticheskoe Upravlenie. Vestnik statistiki.
Vols. 1, 1919-34, 1929.
S'ezdy Sovetov SSSR. Stenograficheskij otchet. S'ezd 1,
1922-7, 1935.

(E. P. Tyrrell)

THE NATIONAL CENTRAL LIBRARY'S SLAVONIC UNION CATALOGUE

In 1947 a "Russian Union Catalogue" was founded at the National Central Library, on the basis of a grant from the Foreign Office. This grant reflected the country's increasing interest in Russian studies, and also the scarcity of materials in U.K. libraries for the pursuit of those studies. Cataloguers from the National Central Library visited libraries in the U.K. which were known to have uncatalogued Russian materials, and created the nucleus of the present card catalogue, now called the "Slavonic Union Catalogue" to reflect the expansion of its scope. The supply of Slavonic materials in this country has undoubtedly improved in the years since the Slav.U.C. was founded, but it is still necessary for a high proportion of the requests for this material received by the N.C.L. to be passed on to libraries abroad, since many items are not held at all in the U.K.—or at least, are not recorded in the Slav.U.C.

Although the substitution of the word "Slavonic" for "Russian" indicates the expansion of the scope of this catalogue, it should be pointed out that there is not an exact correspondence between its coverage and the interests of the SCONUL Sub-Committee on Slavonic and East European Materials. The "East European" in the latter name shows where the difference lies; the Slav. U.C. does not include information on holdings in Hungarian, Rumanian and Albanian, which are within the province of the Sub-Committee. Having said this, I hasten to add that these languages do fall within the scope of the more general book and periodical catalogues of the N.C.L., so the information on such holdings transmitted by the co-operating libraries is accessible outside the Slav. U.C.

There is no exclusion of materials from the Slav. U.C. on a subject basis ; indeed, despite the resources of the National Lending Library for Science and Technology, a majority of the requests received at the N.C.L. in this language area are for scientific and technical material, and this emphasis is also reflected in the applications which have to be forwarded to libraries abroad. However, since the provision of scientific literature in this country is so particularly the province of the N.L.L., this note will be restricted to some account of the situation in the humanities, as far as the N.C.L. is aware of it through handling the applications forwarded to the Slav.U.C.

When applications are sent abroad for material apparently unobtainable in the U.K., we do not necessarily try the country of origin exclusively, or even in the first instance. There seem to be categories of literature, whose limits are not always easy to define, and which vary from time to time, which are not available from the country where they originally appeared. Thus for some classes of material we would tend to apply in the first instance to the University library in Helsinki, even when it originated in pre-revolutionary Russia. There are libraries outside the Soviet Union, too, which are depositories for much Russian literature, which are prepared to lend because there is otherwise little use for this material ; this has proved convenient in cases where the country of origin has shown itself to be unable or unwilling to lend because of local demand, or for some other cause.

A list of specific items requested through the N.C.L. and not located in the U.K. appears in the N.C.L.'s *Occasional Newsletter*. Outside the sciences, difficulty is experienced in obtaining Russian publications on the revolutions of 1905 and 1917, and Russian publications on religion. Again in the political field, there is difficulty in obtaining material published by the "Konstitutsionno-Demokraticeskaja Partija" (Partija Narodnoj Svobody), 1905-1906. These categories are mentioned specifically because it is also difficult to obtain them on international interloan from the Soviet Union. Although I promised to omit references to the sciences, in this connection one might also mention the difficulty in obtaining , from U.K. or native sources, publications on agricultural questions, meaning primarily those of a statistical, economic or social nature rather than technical.

The appears to be a scarcity in the U.K., and again it is difficult to obtain from the Soviet Union, books on Sergej Esenin, books

by L. Gragar, Vladimir Ivanovich Narbut, and Jurij Olesha, and books on Russian folklore. Certain periodicals present the same problems, either altogether, or for particular periods, viz:

Bezvirnyk. (Kharkov-Kiev).

Don. (Rostov-na-Donu).

Iskusstvo i zhizn'. (1930's).

Kartonnyj Domik, Almanakh. (1920's).

Krasnaja Nov'. (1922 & 1926).

Novy Zhurnal dlja vsekh. (round about 1910).

Pratsy Instituta movaznavstva AN BSSR. (Minsk)

Uchenye Zapiski Leningradskogo Gosudarstvennogo
Pedagogicheskogo Instituta.

Utro Rossii. (1913-1916).

Zarja Vostoka. (Tbilisi).

Zhizn' dlja vsekh. (about 1910).

Tridsat' Dnej.

Trudy Imp. Vol'nogo Ekonomicheskago Obshchestva.

Revoljutsija i relihija. (Kharkov-Kiev) (about 1870).

Likewise, there is difficulty in obtaining the early years of the Czech periodicals:

Ceská Osveta.

Dejiny a Soucasnost.

The solution to these problems seems to lie in the hands of the various microfilming (etc.) organisations, but the N.C.L. would be glad to hear of any holdings or collections, which may not have ever been represented in the Slavonic Union Catalogue, which might include materials in the categories mentioned above, or others of a similar nature.

(K. I. Porter, with the
assistance of Mrs. E. Golkowska.)

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Bibliography of books in Polish or relating to Poland published outside Poland since Sept. 1st, 1939. Compiled by the late Janina *Zabielska* (d. 1962), continued and supplemented by Maria L. *Danilewicz* and Halina *Choynacka*. Vol. III: 1958-1963, and Supplements to 1939-1957. (Nos. 1-4120).

London, 1966, The Polish Library, 9 Princes Gardens, folio, [4], 696 p., 1 pl. (port.), stencilled. Price: £4.10.0
Publ. in 350 copies, cover and tp. printed.

This third volume of the Bibliography appears four years after the death of its pioneer compiler, the late J. Zabielska, deputy librarian of the Polish Library, who worked on the volume until February, 1962, and even on her deathbed showed undiminished interest in the work, with which her name is permanently linked.

It aims at recording non-periodical publications in Polish or relating to Poland which appeared outside Poland. These publications fall roughly into the following categories:

- (a) published in Polish ;
- (b) published in languages other than Polish, but written or compiled by Poles ;
- (c) translated or adapted from the Polish ;
- (d) concerning Poland.

The difficulties in obtaining copies of such publications are obvious. So there are gaps in the material presented, and need for supplements. Items published in wartime are still coming to light, following appeals in the Polish press.

Some categories of publications are excluded ; namely :

- (1) wartime German publications (mostly connected with the conduct of the war and the occupation). Those interested can trace them in the German national bibliographies.
- (2) Publications in Polish or concerning Poland published in the U.S.S.R., Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania, or East Germany (after 1945), which reach England only occasionally. All of them are registered by the Bibliographical Institute attached to the National Library in Warsaw.
- (3) Reports, calendars, etc., published by small Polish communities in the U.S.A., Canada, South America, etc., reflecting religious, social, or like activities of Poles who emigrated before 1939 and settled permanently on the other side of the Atlantic. They are as a rule difficult to trace outside the region for which they are intended.

The three volumes of the Bibliography list 13,920 titles. There is an obvious need for accumulation in printed form, not possible owing to the lack of funds. The majority of titles (about 80%) are represented in the collections of the Polish Library, and are kept separate.

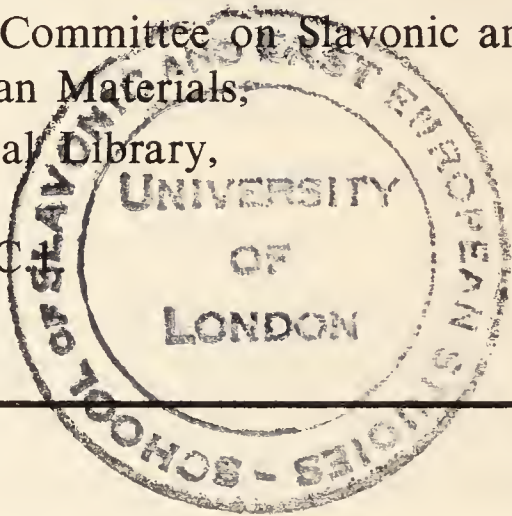
Volume IV (1964 onwards) is in preparation.

(M. L. Danilewicz.)

Are you interested in receiving future issues of “ Solanus ” ? From no.2 the price will be 5/- including postage. It is hoped to produce three issues per year, to appear in mid-term according to the university calendar. Foreign subscribers should pay the equivalent of U.S. \$1.00.

If you wish to receive the next issue (or enter a standing order), please clip and send the pro-forma below to:

Mr. K. I. Porter,
Hon. Secretary,
SCONUL Sub-Committee on Slavonic and
East European Materials,
National Central Library,
Store Street,
LONDON, W.C.



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